

**(Washington, DC)** Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement regarding National Read Across America Day:

“Today I join teachers, parents, and children across the country in celebrating National Read Across America Day – a day which seeks to raise awareness of the importance of reading and to provide the resources and motivation needed for teachers, parents, and the community to encourage children to read.

“Today also marks the birthday of Dr. Seuss, who brought excitement to reading for children through his creative characters and imaginative books. His birthday was amply chosen to be the date for National Read Across America Day and today we honor his legacy by continuing his efforts of making reading exciting for children to better prepare them to be successful students.

“I am a firm believer in the important role early childhood literacy plays in a child’s development and educational success and have long supported programs such as the Reach Out and Read program in West Palm Beach, Florida. This invaluable program was sponsored by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County which has been active in the community for over 20 years promoting literacy, teaching the importance of reading aloud to children, and providing resources to families.

“I believe that a quality education begins early in life and that efforts to increase childhood literacy are vital. I will continue to support initiatives such as Reach Out and Read and National Read Across America Day to ensure that all children are afforded every chance to reach their full potential.”

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.*

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